



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2014

*Celebrating Indiana's
Women in Conservation and
their Character, Courage, and
Commitment*





WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY

- ❖ National Women's History Project
- ❖ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOYBvbryllA>



I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT



...because every Wednesday night for the last 7 years I have shared my faith, time and crafting talent with children through the Team Kid program at Northwood Baptist Church. For many of these kids we may be the only positive role model in their lives.

Miranda McGillem

SW Area Program Specialist
Knox County, Indiana

I AM A WOMAN OF COURAGE

...in the face of adversity. I trust God will lead me and care for me in this time of trial in my life. Whatever plans He has for my life are all for His glory.

Cheryl DeHaven

Soil Conservationist
Princeton CIT, Indiana



I AM A WOMAN OF STRENGTH



❖ My greatest strength is ensuring that conservation occurs on the land by working one-on-one with the stewards of this great land. By giving my all to ensure that my customers have every opportunity to achieve their conservation goals, I am also helping to ensure that the land we live on, the air that we breathe in and the water that we drink will be just as viable for our kids, grandkids and for many generations to come.

Tammy Swihart

District Conservationist
Greene County, Indiana

I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT

*...because I am committed to the path
of respect for the environment and its
many natural wonders, great and
small. I am committed to contribute to
the conservation of natural resources
through active involvement in family,
community and educational activities*

Mary Jo Woodruff

CSP Program Manager and Appeals Coordinator
Indianapolis, Indiana



I AM A WOMAN OF COURAGE...



...because for the last +11 years I
have put up with working with the
rest of the SW Area Staff.

JoEllen Witt

SW Field Office Assistant
Knox County, Indiana

I AM A WOMAN OF THANKFULNESS

Thankful for the miracle that
gave me the joy of another day
on this beautiful earth
to love and give to others.

Betsy Wilkinson

Office Assistant
SW Indiana Area Office



I AM A WOMAN OF CHARACTER & COMMITMENT



...because my commitment to my job is not only for the NRCS family, but for my family. My character is built out of my commitment to both.

Kelley Barkell

District Conservationist

AIAN SEPM

Adams & Wells, Indiana

IS A WOMAN OF CHARACTER & COURAGE

*...because of her contributions as an author
and leader in the field of spirituality,
compassion and mindfulness. She is an Earth
Team Volunteer that has help share NRCS's
mission with the public through her writing.*

Diana Ensign, J.D.

Earth Team Volunteer
NRCS, Indiana



I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT



...because I strive everyday to be the “Wetland Super Hero” my children believe I am. Even if it is from behind a desk, I want to ensure that all of our children have the opportunity to experience flocks of birds in the sky, clean water to splash in, and safe areas to get covered in mud and explore.

Brianne Lowe

State Easement Program Specialist
Indianapolis, Indiana

I AM A WOMAN OF COURAGE

...for discussing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues in our workplace.

Regardless of sexual orientation, we all have a common purpose. This is about everyday Americans who want the same chance as everyone else to pursue health and happiness, earn a living, be safe in their communities, serve their country, and take care of the ones they love.

Tandy Easler

CET & LGBT SEPM
Albion CIT, Indiana



IS A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT



*...because of her tireless efforts to
promote a legacy of conservation and
partnership in Indiana through the
Healthy Rivers Initiative.*

Angie Tilton

HRI Project Coordinator
DNR Indiana

I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT

...because I am committed to my family and my work. I am raising a family with a sense of place and community, fostering close relationships with extended family. I am developing agency leaders, strong state partnerships, and influencing national policy. I am proud of my commitment to achieve both my family and career goals.

Jill Reinhart

NRCS ASTC-Special Projects
Indianapolis, IN



I AM A WOMAN OF STRENGTH



...who stands every day through
grace with greater wisdom,
steadfastness, and faith in my Savior
who has both harbored and delivered
me through many life storms.

Rita Becker Forler

District Conservationist
Spencer/Perry Counties, Indiana

IS A WOMEN OF COURAGE

..because for over nine years, she has served Steuben County, promoting conservation, building a foundation of collaboration between non-agriculture residents and agriculture producers to improve community relationships, and working to bring over \$1.2 million in grant funds to put conservation on the ground.

Kayleen Hart

Administrative Coordinator
Steuben County SWCD, Indiana



WE ARE WOMEN OF COMMITMENT



...by reminding us all that Agriculture has many different faces. That by arming women with knowledge, they are able to make sound business decisions benefiting their families and operations.

Annie's Project

DeKalb County Extension
NE Indiana

I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT

...because I coordinate the Angel Tree Program at my church. In 2013, we provided Christmas presents for 87 children (representing 40 families) who would not otherwise have received any gifts for Christmas.

Deb Knepp

District Conservationist
Saint Joseph County, IN



I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE AND CHARACTER



...*because* I started in a male dominated field as one of very few women. I was determined to show that I was as good in my field as a man. I did not hide or shrink away from situations. I found my strengths in life and cultivated them. Today, I encourage younger men and women to find the best people to learn from and build their strengths that will set them apart from the pack.

Ruth Montgomery

Tec CIT Team Leader
Rensselaer, Indiana

IS A WOMAN OF CHARACTER

*...because she brings a sense of
humor to every job, and tackles
each task with determination
and spirit.*

Lori Beeker

NRCS Soil Conservationist
White County, Indiana



I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT



...because I am a Girl Scout Leader, Girl Scout Service Unit Treasurer, 4-H Council Member, 4-H Judge, Sunday School Teacher, SWCS Council Member, Mom, and have a successful career

Alyson Keaton

NRCS Contract Specialist
Indianapolis, IN

I AM A WOMAN OF CHARACTER

*...because I chose to spread
happiness through my laughter
and smile.*

Cindy Muffett

District Conservationist
White County, Indiana



IS A WOMAN OF CHARACTER



...because her positive first impression over 12 years ago made it clear to me this is an agency of professionals and an agency I wanted to work for. She has an extremely welcoming, “can-do” attitude, positive outlook, and a tactful, courteous demeanor even in difficult situations.

Susan Meadows

NRCS State Training Officer
Indianapolis, Indiana

IS A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT

...because she gives 100% to bring positive change to Programs and Technology, including the extra effort to assist with nationwide efforts beyond just Indiana, and dedicating herself to her family.



Jennifer Chen

NRCS State Resource Conservationist
Indianapolis, IN

IS A WOMAN OF CHARACTER



...because of her dedication and pride in serving and supporting her family, the agriculture community, her staff and the USDA partnerships in Newton and Jasper Counties.

Carol Richey

FSA CED

Newton and Jasper County, Indiana

I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT

...as a Resource Specialist of 14 years for ISDA, I get the opportunity to work with landowners and other units of government as it relates to implementing conservation on land to help promote a healthier environment.

Sue Gerlach

ISDA Resource Specialist
Lafayette, IN



I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT



...because I have a passion for conservation and am willing to go the extra mile to make sure our message is heard. I have been doing this for 30 years. It is a part of my everyday life.

Rene' Weaver

SWCD Office Manager
Howard County, IN

I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT

...because I have worked to keep soil on Indiana farms and out of our waters for 13 years and have designed over 400 conservation practices.

Sarah Lake

ISDA Resource Specialist
Howard County, IN



I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT



*...because I balance a fulfilling career
of protecting our natural resources
with a full time career of raising a
family and volunteering at the kids
school.*

Susannah Hinds

NRCS NW Area Grazing Specialist
Lafayette, IN

IS A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT

...because she is very dedicated to conservation and making a difference. During the school year, Mrs. Benson visits the area schools and teaches the children about conservation. She is a very committed to conservation and making a difference.

Michelle Benson

SWCD Office Manager
Porter County, IN



I AM A WOMAN OF STRENGTH



*Because I am a working process of self-discovery.
Through God and with His help, I am inspired
and empowered to live a better life, to act rather
than react, to be a change agent, develop action
plans, not to judge others, to be courageous in
challenging situations, get along with difficult people
and stay focused in a turbulent world.*

Celesta Dunston

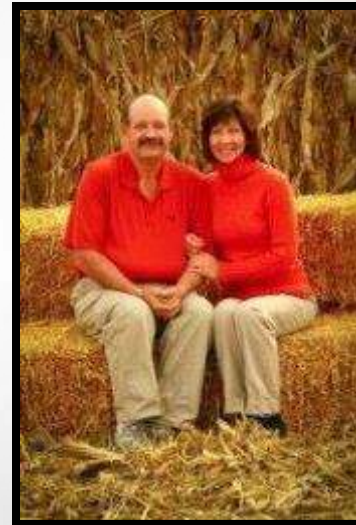
NRCS Indiana Program Specialist
Greensboro, NC

I AM A WOMEN OF CHARACTER

"It has been said that the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it. We mistreat the natural resources given to us by God and don't believe we will have to pay the price for our actions. Only when the last tree dies, the last river has been poisoned, and the last fish has been caught will we realize we cannot eat money. What a blessing to work for USDA to labor in partnership with so many other outstanding conservation agencies for our natural resources!"

Michelle Howell

FSA Program Specialist
Grant County, IN



I AM A WOMAN OF COURAGE



*...because a few years ago I made a career
move to Indiana from my home state and
family and friends.*

Brandy Daggett
NRCS District Conservationist
Clinton County, Indiana

I AM A WOMAN OF COURAGE

...because I moved to Indiana from
Iowa by myself right out of college
in order to further my career with
NRCS.

Jamie Shonkwiler

NRCS Soil Conservationist
Lebanon CIT, Indiana



I AM A WOMAN OF COURAGE AND COMMITMENT...



...by constantly seeking new and
challenging roles to fill within NRCS,
such as being accepted into the
Leadership Development Program, so
that I can continue to advocate for
conservation in Indiana.

Cindy Johnston

Soil Conservationist
Lebanon CIT, Indiana

IS A WOMAN OF COURAGE

*.....because she always does her best to
help the field even when she may not be
feeling the best!*

Deb Duley

NW Area Office Assistant
Lafayette, Indiana



I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT...



... because I have been working with
NRCS' future leaders for the last 4 years
through the Indiana Leadership
Development Program.

Becky Ross

NW Area Conservationist
Lafayette, Indiana

I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT

...because I have a
commitment to saving soil from
eroding into our waterways by
coordinating 3 Soil Bio-
Engineering Projects now for
the Town of South Whitley, IN

Amy Lybarger

NRCS District Conservationist
Whitley County, IN



I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT



...because for 4 years I have helped promote the Agency's mission in recruitment efforts and activities. Conservation requires people with diverse talents!

Lindsay Martinez

Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager/

Soil Conservationist

Greene County, IN

I AM A WOMEN OF COMMITMENT

*...because I've worked for the Tippecanoe Soil
and Water Conservation District for 24
years. I'm committed to continuing to move
Tippecanoe County forward as one of the
leading conservation districts in the State of
Indiana*

Chris Remley

SWCD District Administrator
Tippecanoe County, IN



I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT



...because I wanted to become a national special emphasis program manager because I wanted to help ensure that the opportunities I had are also available to others. Opportunities to be employed at the USDA NRCS must be a tangible goal for all. It is also very important to me to work towards bridging gaps in communication, cultural awareness, and cultural understanding if and where needed.

Tiffany Justus

National Black Emphasis Program Manager
Soil Conservationist MLRA
Indianapolis, IN

I AM A WOMEN OF SERVICE

...because I believe that everyone deserves healthy food on the table and a safe home to escape to. I've been a volunteer at Daysprings Homeless Family Center for many years, and the State Coordinator for Feds Feed Families.

Lisa Bolton

Executive Assistant to the State Conservationist
Indianapolis, IN



IS A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT



...because her commitment to Indiana's leadership continues to make Indiana NRCS a leader in conservation across the country

Kimberly Neumann

NRCS NE Area Conservationist

Fort Wayne, IN

I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT

...because I take my job seriously, treat everyone fairly, and I know that I make a difference in the lives of the producers in my counties. I can't imagine not being a part of the great industry of agriculture

Colette Zeigler-Staley

FSA County Executive Director
White County FSA and Acting Tippecanoe Co., IN



I AM A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT



...because I volunteer my time every week at Reins of Life Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center. I help individuals with their therapy and they show me examples of amazing courage and perseverance every day.

Amanda Kautz

NRCS District Conservationist
Elkhart Co., IN

IS A WOMAN OF COMMITMENT

...because in addition to being the first female State Executive Director for Indiana, she is dedicated to her family, community and church. Julia is always the first one to volunteer to help, while still going above and beyond her commitment to Farm Service Agency. She exemplifies a strong woman of character, courage and commitment.

Julia Wickard

FSA State Executive Director
Indianapolis, IN



I AM A WOMAN OF CHARACTER



As a woman of character I have broken down glass ceilings for women in agriculture while maintaining my passion as a public servant and when all else failed there was always chocolate and Dr. Pepper.

Jane Hardisty

NRCS State Conservationist
Indianapolis, IN





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THANK YOU



- ❖ To all those who contributed slides for this presentation
- ❖ To everyone who contributed food or funds in support of the
bruncheon
- ❖ To Jane and the Civil Rights Advisory Committee for supporting
these events
- ❖ To everyone who is here today